

MARGOT ASQUITH CRITICIZES FIGHT ON SMOKING BY WOMEN

SURPRISED TO LEARN OF OPPOSITION HERE

Alien Writer Deems Americans Too Much Concerned About What Their Neighbors Do—Can't Understand Why Weaker Sex Generally for Prohibition.

If I am asked now, as I was often when I first came to America, what I thought of American women, I should at first comment on their wonderful beauty and next on their capacity for procuring and wearing exquisite clothes.

But in discussing the subject at this time, I feel that I have observed something that may not be so obvious to the Americans themselves and to other foreigners paying a visit to this country. That something is the tendency of American women to take desperate interest in trivial things—to make questions out of matters that are really economic or hygienic.

In every city that I visited there are "clubs," both male and female, to forbid some harmless trivialities and, until these are ridiculed out of existence, they will prevent the United States from ever becoming what we should call a free country.

Concerned About Each Other. The Americans, while the most friendly people in the world, are too much concerned about each other, and though not personally, are nationally vain. They would rather hear themselves abused than undressed, which inclines me to imagine that they are suffering from the uneasiness of the "nouveau riche."

What do you think of us? "How do you compare our men and women and their clothes and customs with your own?" was the substance of every question that was put to me.

There are things of surpassing interest in this country, but have any of you heard an English man or woman ask a "fellow" what he thought of us? Or, if they were silly enough to do so, who would be interested in the reply?

Some will say that this comes from our pride, or insularity, but they will be wrong. We are not obsessed by the desire to interfere with our neighbor that is noticeable all over America.

Women and Prohibition. I was told, and I have the evidence of my own experience to support that statement, that the women were largely, if indirectly, responsible for the passage of the prohibition constitutional amendment, and the women were largely, if indirectly, responsible for the passage of the amendment.

I have already discussed the workings of prohibition, as it is enforced in this country, but before they are forced. I have written my disappointment, as a strong believer in temperance and regulation, that the measure in America is not satisfactory.

It is to be regretted that the women, if they did bring about the amendment, were not fully aware of what its consequences would be.

Supported in Her Views. (Some of the women I am grateful) took up the cudgels for me on my stand on prohibition and in a letter to a New York paper wrote:

I am a busy man, and have not much time to write letters, but I can't stand the sneering, cheap remarks of certain papers in their accounts of Mrs. Asquith's summing up of prohibition.

Mrs. Asquith did not give stories of a "vulgar nature," depicting an individual half-stupor with drink. (Note the hard Pharaonic way in which they glow over the word "drink," instead of the cheap, old-fashioned "temperance" poems.)

She quite properly and honestly called attention to the force of prohibition laws, and merely voiced the opinion of the vast majority of honest people, when she declared the unjust and unconstitutional "blue laws," which are bigoted and ignorant minority of the Canadian and American people are trying to enact and enforce on the unwilling masses—the real taxpayers.

"Would to goodness we had more such women, fearlessly candid, broad-minded and unprejudiced like Mrs. Asquith," said a letter from England, which will never wander to the few fanatics who are the real oppressors, depressers and joy-killers."

It was told that similar measures are being considered, especially women's "clubs" to prevent the smoking of cigarettes. In fact, one or two States already have antilegalistic laws.

The strange part is that such things are considered, as they are called in the United States, "moral issues." The final passage of the prohibition amendment was celebrated with services in some of the denominational churches as though some great victory for Christianity had been achieved. Fancy making the storage of cigarette selling an object of as great import as the crusaders considered the ransom of the Holy Sepulchre.

In my opinion—and I am a cigarette smoker—the prohibition of smoking would be a silly and perilous meddling with individual liberty.

It is apparent that millions of American women consider smoking an evil in itself; they think it morally wrong; they regard it as virtually a sin.

Yet it is not such. Excessive smoking, like excessive eating, excessive tea drinking or excessive sleeping, is an evil—any intemperance that undermines the health is an evil.

As a matter of fact, one sees every day, not only in Europe, but in America, and—I must confess—among American women, even victims of overeating and overdrinking, than victims of either too much drink or too much tobacco!

Some women of America, if one may judge from their newspapers and the letters I receive, are even considering the lengths of their daughters' skirts a moral issue!

Legislation Ament Short Skirts. It is safe to say, however, that the majority of them regard the short skirt, if not too extreme, as a practical blessing.

For my part, asked a thousand times about "peppers" and their skirts, I could only answer: "What on earth difference does it make?"

Flappers and their mothers—American women, all—are tastefully, economically and sensibly dressed. The best dressed American woman is probably the best dressed woman on earth. The average American woman is better dressed than any other woman.

So, why should some of you strive to make a moral issue out of a passing vogue—a fashion based on a world movement for economy?

Surely, the women of the nation

Theater Seats Are Sent on Approval to Patrons

(Special Cable Dispatch.)

LONDON, June 3.—Theater seats on approval is an innovation put into practice by a London manager in an effort to keep his house full during London's heated season.

The play involved is "Last of Laughter," written by two young actresses and which J. M. Barrie predicted would run a year. However, it felt the effect of hot weather and now Sir Alfred Butt, the producer, says he will leave it to the playgoers, whether it is worth the money or not. Reserved seats will be sent free on written application and if the play is considered worth the money a check is to be sent, if not there will be no further obligation.

Several American producers have bids in for the play, and in the event that it is a success it is likely to cross the ocean soon.

(C. 1922, Public Ledger Co.)

which she and Kennicott so little understood. "Main Street" is said to be typical of a certain stratum of life in the United States. Let me say, however, on behalf of the smaller, isolated cities that I visited that there was a more genuine knowledge and interest in world-wide affairs and communities than you could find in similar communities in England, and (I fancy I am repeating myself here) I am positive that there is much more knowledge of English politics generally in the American "Gopher Prairies" than of American things in English towns.

American Conventions. It is little enough I know of domestic life in America. Dashing hither and thither on rocking trains, traveling incredible distances between cities by night and day, I saw little of the life of the great majority.

Of the homes I did see, I have spoken briefly previously, emphasizing the generous hospitality and the taste and comfort that, to many Europeans, always proves surprising. What more deeply surprised me of the Old World on their first visit is the extraordinary conveniences and arrangements for physical comfort in American homes.

It is hard to say how much of this is due to the fact that the American people are a hardy and strong race, and but for the few cemeteries I have seen, I am inclined to think they never die. They are not afraid of death, and they are not afraid of the unknown. They are not afraid of the unknown, and they are not afraid of the unknown.

Do Americans Ever Die? It is always dangerous to generalize, but the American people are a hardy and strong race, and but for the few cemeteries I have seen, I am inclined to think they never die.

They are just beginning to get away from their old habit of devoting all their time to business. With property so easily attainable in their immensely rich land, and so much more room for play than any other country enjoys, one would think that out-door recreation would always have been a more important aim.

The American business man, up to a few years ago, found all his recreation in his pleasure and his ambition in his work. Not until our Scotch game of golf intrigued him did he consent to tear himself away from the desk to revel in the air and sunshine. And so far as the women are concerned, gold has not brought them nearer their husbands; the "golf widow" is a subject of pity not altogether humorous.

Whether it is from the difficulties of the climate, and the overheated rooms, the voices of even the nicest people in the United States appeared to me to be loud, and however generously you may have been entertained, you are left with a sense of suffocation which it would be difficult to explain.

The excuse of being a young country will not continue to cover the rush and noise and lack of privacy that prevail; and the number of small children that I have seen in hotels, ships and restaurants, that go to bed at midnight after sucking candy between enormous meals, is not promising for a nation which is always growing up.

Of course as far as devotion goes the American mother has no superior. Mothers are pretty much alike in so far as love is concerned. But motherhood is an art that needs cultivation to attain perfection; it should be more than instinctive in its application. The American woman must make a study of its many requirements that her children may enjoy the best of their unequalled heritage.

(Copyright, 1922, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.) "American Men" is the subject of Mrs. Asquith's next article in The Times Dispatch next Sunday.

"They spend too much time on business," she says, and insist on the blame for American domestic unhappiness on them. "Hurried and hectic, they love noise," is one comment.

Acute Indigestion For Over Two Years "For over two years I suffered from acute indigestion," says Arthur L. Reeves, secretary of the Austburg Fuel and Light Company, Ohio, "frequently attending a physician, but getting only temporary relief. Acting on the advice of a friend, I took Dr. Orin's Stomach Remedy regularly until the first package was used, then procured another package, of which I have taken only an occasional dose for a real or fancied condition of acid stomach or heartburn. For seven months now I have been entirely free from any attack of acute indigestion, and can eat anything I want with no fear of bad results. In case of your stomach, which is sometimes quite annoying, one does will be found north the price of the package. If the above statement of facts will help to all the attention of other sufferers to the merits of Dr. Orin's Stomach Remedy, I shall be glad to have you use it. Signed Arthur L. Reeves.

They all say the same. For 75 cents you can get a large box of Dr. Orin's Stomach Remedy, a great physician's greatest stomach prescription, at Grant Drug Co., Blaine's Drug Store, Tarrant Drug Co., T. A. Miller Co., Tragle Drug Co., Inc., and all good druggists.

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Don't wait until tomorrow to begin the use of this wonderful prescription. If you have any of the above symptoms, Kidney and Bladder troubles don't wear away. They will grow upon you slowly, stealthily and with unfailing certainty.

Never mind the failures of the past if you even suspect that you are subject to kidney disease; don't lose a single day for every good druggist has been authorized to return the purchase money on the first bottle to all who state they have received no benefit. -Adv.

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SHAW CONDEMNS MODERN PRISONS

Asserts Death More Merciful Than System Now in Use.

PILLORY FAR BETTER Thief Only Steals in Different Way Than His Fellows.

LONDON, June 3.—Condemnation of the modern prison system as "extremely wicked" has just been voiced by George Bernard Shaw, who for three years served on a committee investigating present-day penal methods.

In fact, Mr. Shaw's denunciation of modern punishment for criminals is so strong that he advances the theory that it would be less tormenting to return to the rack, stake, pillory and lash and suggests death punishment for any "abominable or continuing offense" as better than the system that now exists.

Those opinions of the iconoclast writer are expressed in a preface to "English Prisons Under Local Government," by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb.

Some of Shaw's general contentions follow: Modern imprisonment, that is, imprisonment practiced as a punishment as well as a means of detention, is extremely cruel and mischievous, and therefore, extremely wicked.

A flaw in the case of terrorism is that it is possible to obtain enough certainty to deter.

The attempt to reform an incurably dangerous criminal may come to be classed with the attempt to propitiate a scared rattlesnake.

The thief who is in prison is not people in the United States appeared to me to be loud, and however generously you may have been entertained, you are left with a sense of suffocation which it would be difficult to explain.

The excuse of being a young country will not continue to cover the rush and noise and lack of privacy that prevail; and the number of small children that I have seen in hotels, ships and restaurants, that go to bed at midnight after sucking candy between enormous meals, is not promising for a nation which is always growing up.

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necessarily more dishonest than his fellows at large, but mostly only one, who through ignorance or stupidity, steals in a way that is not customary.

Powers of Dotty Insured. Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord; and that means that it is not the Lord Chief Justice's.

Why a man who is punished for having an inefficient conscience should be privileged to have an inefficient lung is a debatable question.

Our criminal system is an organized attempt to produce white by two blacks.

Imprisonment cannot be fully understood by those who do not understand freedom.

But on the heels of such statements as these Mr. Shaw says he would have no objection to incurably dangerous criminals being put to death, but he will have nothing to do with torturing them, and his inquiries have led him to believe that imprisonment, as at present practiced, is torture.

"The public conscience," says Mr. Shaw, "could be far more active if the punishment of imprisonment were abolished, and we went back to the rack, the stake, the pillory and the lash at the cart's tail. We have to find some form of torment which can give no sensual satisfaction to the tormentor and which is hidden from public view. That is how imprisonment, being just such a torment, becomes the normal penalty. The fact that it may be worse for the criminal is not taken into account. The public is seeking its own salvation, not that of the lawbreaker."

He does not believe, however, that lawbreakers can be cured by kindness.

"Any criticism," he declares, "of the deterrent theory of our prison system which ignores the existence of ungovernable savages will be discredited by the citation of actual cases. At present you torment them for a fixed period at the end of which they are set free to resume their operations with a savage grudge against the community which has tormented them. That is stupid. Nothing is gained by punishing people who cannot help themselves and on whom deterrence is thrown away. Releasing them is like releasing the tigers from the zoo to find their next meal in the children's playground."

The obvious course appears to Mr. Shaw to be to kill them, whether their crime is persistent cruelty to children or habitual wife-beating or

professional murder or any other abominable and continuing offense. "After all," he says, "imprisonment is as irrevocable as hanging; each is a method of taking the criminal's life. The dread of clean and willful killing leads to far more cruel evasions of the commandment, 'Thou shalt not kill.'"

Mr. Shaw tells one good story in the course of his diatribe. A Westminster Abbey verger appeared in court as complainant against a Frenchman on the charge of brawling in church.

The magistrate inquiring what, exactly, the foreigner had done, was told that he had knelt in prayer. "But," said the magistrate, "is not that what a church is for?" The verger was scandalized. "If we loved that," he said, "we should have people praying all over the church."

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